

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A Petition and fee for a two-month extension of time are enclosed herewith.

In the Office Action of December 12, 2008, the drawings are objected to because Fig. 1 does not have the legend --Prior Art--. By this Amendment, please replace the three sheets of drawings for Figs. 1 through 4b with the enclosed three sheets of replacement drawings for Figures 1 through 4b. The replacement sheets have the legend --Prior Art-- added to Fig. 1. The replacement sheets also have the PCT numbers and references removed. Applicant submits that the replacement sheets do not constitute new matter and are now in compliance. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Also in the Office Action, Claim 13 is objected to. By this Amendment, the word "liner" has been replaced by the word --linear--.

In the Office Action, Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. By this Amendment, Claims 11-13 have been amended to remove reference to Claims 1-4 and 6-9. Also by this Amendment, Claim 11 has been rewritten as an independent claim and amended to set forth the steps involved in the method claimed. Further by this Amendment, Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to depend on independent Claim 11. Applicant submits that amended Claims 11-13 are definite. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Further in the Office Action, Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as an improper definition of a process. Applicant submits that amended Claims 11-13 properly define a process. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 101 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 5/1, 6, 7, 11/1, 11/4, 11/6, 11/7, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,065,893 to Basford. Basford discloses first (34) and third (28) rotatable members that are drive pulleys (Column 2, lines 12-15). Basford further discloses second (36) and fourth (30) rotatable members that are idler pulleys (Column 2, lines 12-15). All of the drive (28, 34) and idler (30, 36) pulleys each have alternating grooves and lands of, respectively, lesser and greater radii that are keyed with similarly alternating ridges and grooves on the inside surface of each belt traction member (26, 32) (Fig. 1). Further, the alternating grooves and lands of each of the idler pulleys have the same dimensions, radially and circumferentially, as those of the corresponding drive pulleys. These features are not described in the description of Basford, but are clearly visible in Fig. 1.

Because each belt traction member is keyed with each pair of corresponding drive and idler pulleys, it is impossible for the speed of the idler pulley to deviate from that of the corresponding drive pulley. Consider what would happen if the idler pulley was rotating faster than the drive pulley. In this case, on one half of the loop formed by the traction member the tension would steadily increase as the belt traction member was stretched. On the other half of the loop formed by the traction member the tension would steadily decrease. This is because the keying of the belt traction member to each pulley prevents any stretching or contracting of the traction member with respect to each pulley, and also prevents any slippage at any point around the pulley where the grooved belt traction member is in contact with the grooved outer surface of the pulley. Therefore, a difference in rotation speed between the drive and idler pulleys would cause the tension on one half of the belt traction member to continuously increase until a point where the belt traction member would break.

However, this is only hypothetical, and would not happen, because there is no source of energy to cause the idler pulleys to rotate faster than the drive pulleys. It is incorrect to assume that because the extrusion 58 is being pulled, that the extrusion must also be continuously stretched as it passes between the belt traction members. There is no mention of any stretching of the extrusion 58, and from the description, it is clear that the tension is only used to draw the extrusion out of an extrusion die (Col 1 Lines 33-56).

By contrast, Claim 1 and amended Claim 11 of the present invention require that "each of the rotatable members being addressed by drive means such that the first and third rotatable members can be driven at a first speed and the second and fourth rotatable members can be driven at a second speed." All four pulleys of the present invention are addressed by drive means, enabling the first and third rotatable members to be driven at a different speed than the second and fourth rotatable member. Basford, however, only discloses two pulleys being addressed by drive means. The additional drive means of the present invention provides a source of energy to cause two rotatable members to rotate faster than the other two rotatable members. In addition, the first and second extensible traction members of the present invention are not provided with grooves that interlock with similar grooves on the rotatable members. Therefore, it is possible for the traction members to extend as they go around the faster driven rotatable members, enabling the rotatable members to rotate at different speeds as required by Claim 1 and amended Claim 11.

Applicant submits that Claim 1 and amended Claim 11 are not anticipated by Basford. Applicant further submits that because Claims 4, 5/1, 6 and 7 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 12 and 13 depend from amended Claim 11, Claims 4, 5/1, 6, 7, 12 and 13 are also not anticipated by Basford. Applicant respectfully requests that the

rejection of Claims 1, 4, 5/1, 6, 7, 11/1, 11/4, 11/6, 11/7, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 2, 3, 5/2, 5/3, 11/2 and 11/3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,065,893 to Basford in view of Canadian Patent No. 1161385 to McGinnis. As discussed above, Basford does not teach or suggest that all four pulleys are addressed by drive means, enabling the first and third rotatable members to be driven at a different speed than the second and fourth rotatable member. McGinnis also does not teach or suggest that all four pulleys are addressed by drive means, enabling the first and third rotatable members to be driven at a different speed than the second and fourth rotatable member, as required by Claim 1 and amended Claim 11. Applicant submits that because Claims 2, 3, 5/2 and 5/3 depend from Claim 1, Claims 2, 3, 5/2 and 5/3 would not have been obvious over Basford in view of McGinnis. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 2, 3, 5/2, 5/3, 11/2 and 11/3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Also in the Office Action, Claims 8-10, 11/8 and 11/9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,065,893 to Basford in view of McGinnis and French Patent No. 2425394 to Walters. As discussed above, neither Basford nor McGinnis teach or suggest that all four pulleys are addressed by drive means, enabling the first and third rotatable members to be driven at a different speed than the second and fourth rotatable member. Walters also does not teach or suggest that all four pulleys are addressed by drive means, enabling the first and third rotatable members to be driven at a different speed than the second and fourth rotatable member, as required by Claim 1 and amended Claim 11. Applicant submits that because Claims 8-10 depend from Claim 1, Claims 8-10 would not have been obvious over Basford in

view of McGinnis and further in view of Walters. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 8-10, 11/8 and 11/9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that amended Claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that allowance of Claims 1-13 be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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